

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Amendment re the role of Ambassadors

1. Proponents contend that the language simply writes into law instructions contained in letters to U.S. Ambassadors by President Kennedy and by President Nixon.

Actually the language exceeds these instructions.

2. Constitutional problem is posed.

Ambassadors are agents of the President. He should have flexibility in determining the role they are to play in carrying out his instructions.

President may use alternative channels of individuals in the conduct of foreign affairs. *Minister Travel -*

Legislation would deny the President this flexibility.

3. Amendment adds "supervision" to Ambassador's responsibility and changes "overall" to "full".

This is very restrictive language.

4. Ambassador should not be responsible for personnel actions of other agencies such as assignments, separation, and efficiency reports.

5. Personnel of other agencies should be permitted to report to their parent agency without the "supervision" of the Ambassador.